REMARKS

I.   Status of the Claims

Claims 1-7, 9-19, 21-30 and 32-53 are all the claims currently pending.

By this Amendment, claims 42, 44-49 and 51-53 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

II.   Response To Objections To The Claims

The Examiner has objected to claims 42, 44-49 and 52 for containing minor informalities. Applicant has amended these claims, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 42, 44-49 and 52 are respectfully requested.

III.   Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 51 and 53 are directed to non-statutory subject matter because the recited terminology, "computer program," alone has no set definition. In response to the rejection, Applicant has amended claims 51 and 53 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Specifically, claims 51 and 53 have been amended to include an updated preamble reciting "a computer program with computer readable media for a communication apparatus containing computer readable code means for executing steps, said steps comprising." Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to claims 51 and 53 are respectfully requested.

IV.   Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 37-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,256,115 to Adler et al. (hereafter Adler). The Applicant traverses the above rejections for the following reasons.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that Adler discloses each and every element as recited in the above claims. The Applicant respectively disagrees.. Adler fails to disclose a means for changing the transmission data format by discriminating destination address data as

claims 37-53 of the present invention. Additionally, Adler also fails to disclose means for selecting whether to continue a communication when destination data is not received within a prescribed time, as recited in claims 37-42, 50, and 51.

More specifically, the present invention, as recited in claims 37-53, is directed to an apparatus, method, and computer program product that includes means for changing information data and destination address data to another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating destination address data. The present invention, as recited in claims 37-42, 50, and 51, is also directed to an apparatus, method, and computer program that includes means for selecting whether a communication is continued via a network when destination data is not received within a prescribed time from the network after a session is started.

Conversely, Adler discloses an apparatus that solely compresses, encrypts, and sends the fax transmission from one fax machine to another fax machine through different protocols (primarily phone lines or through the internet). The node determines the routing of the fax transmission to the destination fax such that different routes can be taken. The transmission is compressed and encrypted in a pre-determined format for the purpose of transmission only. Thus, Adler does not disclose an apparatus that discriminates and converts the format of a file based on a destination address. In addition, Adler does not disclose a means for selecting whether a communication is continued via a network when destination data is not received within a prescribed time, but rather provides an automatic termination feature upon time-out. That is, a user is not presented with a choice to continue upon time-out, but instead automatically flows to an "END" block when a time-out occurs. Accordingly, claims 37-53 are believed to be distinguishable over Adler.

V.   Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-7, 9-19, 21-30, and 32-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Adler in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,521,719 to Yamada (hereafter Yamada). The Applicant traverses the above rejections for the following reasons.

With regard to the rejections of claims 1-7, 9-19, 21-30, and 32-36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the Examiner relies on Adler in combination with Yamada to reject all the features in the above claims. However, the addition of the Yamada reference does not overcome the

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deficiencies noted above in the Adler reference to render obvious the claims of the present invention. Accordingly, even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine the teachings of Adler and Yamada, the combination still would not teach or suggest all the limitations recited in the above claims.

Specifically, the combination of Adler and Yamada does not disclose means for changing information data and destination address data to another format corresponding to another type of network by discriminating destination address data. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 9-19, 21-30 and 32-36 are believed to be distinguishable over the combination of Alder and Yamada.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of the application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4458US1.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4458US1.

Respectfully submitted,
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